SEPTEMBER 2, 1967
22nd Anniversary of the Founding of the D.R.V.N.

VIETNAM COURIER

Sept. 4 1967
No 126
4th Year

INFORMATION WEEKLY — E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street — Hanoi — D.R.V.N. — Tel. 3841

The Presidium of the ceremony commemorating the 22nd founding anniversary of the D.R.V.N.

WE ARE RESOLVED TO FIGHT TO THE END AND DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

— ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE D.R.V.N. PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG DELIVERED AN IMPORTANT SPEECH, LARGE EXCERPTS OF WHICH ARE PRINTED BELOW —

WASHINGTON'S STALEMATE *

OUR victories and the enemy's defeats have great repercussions even in the United States and throughout the world, creating more difficulties for the enemy and driving him further into a stalemate. This year's budget of the U.S. is showing an unprecedented deficit: the costs of the Viet Nam war are wrecking Johnson's demagogic programme for a so-called "great society"; big tax increase has provoked discontent among all strata of the American people; the power and economic position of the United States are dwindling even in the capitalist world. The present movement of Black people in the United States, the fiercest and most extensive ever in the history of the U.S., is like a time bomb in the heart of the U.S. capitalist society, and marks a new stage in the struggle against racial discrimination, for the fundamental rights of Black people in the United States. Our people resolutely and unreservedly support the just struggle of Black people in the U.S. which we firmly believe will ultimately be victorious. The struggle of the American working class for economic and democratic rights, and the American people's movement against the aggressive war in Viet Nam are daily gaining in scope.

In the world, U.S. imperialism whose aggressive and deceitful features reveal themselves more and more clearly, has met with the wrath and opposition of the peoples. Many of its allies have shown it a lukewarm attitude, some have even left it in the lurch and opposed its policy. Many satellite countries which have joined the U.S. in the war in South Viet Nam have refused to contribute more troops to a losing aggressive war.

The U.S. imperialists are now in a stalemate and are doomed to defeat. This is not only our appraisal, but also that of world opinion and of different American circles. Even the late U.S. President Kennedy admitted that in South Viet Nam "we don't see the end of the tunnel." Ever since the U.S. imperialists began intervening in the south of our country, we have clearly seen that their unjust policy is doomed to failure and that our patriotic war, our people's war is sure to win. It is now even clearer that the aggressors are in a stalemate: stalemate in politics, in military strategy and tactics, stalemate on the Viet Nam battlefield, stalemate in the U.S. and in the world. In an attempt to get out of their stalemate, the U.S. imperialists have, after each defeat, further intensified and widened their war of aggression. But each new escalation step has led to a yet heavier defeat, which proves that there can be no way out for the U.S. imperialists.

In face of this critical situation, political circles, public opinion and the people in the U.S. have voiced deep anxiety. The *U.S. News and World Report* of August 14, 1967, said: "War, race strife, a soaring deficit, troubles with Congress, allies and the dollar—bad news is pressing in on the administration from all sides. Suddenly, at the White House, it must seem as though the roof is falling in."

The U.S. imperialists, however, have obdurately refused to draw lessons from the present situation. They are intensifying their aggressive war in South Viet Nam, while in North Viet Nam, they are taking new, extremely dangerous escalation steps, which arouse a powerful wave of protests among the people in the socialist countries and in the world. More than ever, our people must heighten their vigilance and stand ready to face any eventuality, ready to fight and smash all dangerous adventures of the U.S. imperialists!

(Continued page 2)

* Subheads are our—Ed.

WE ARE RESOLVED TO FIGHT TO THE END AND DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

(Continued from page 1)

THE SAIGON PUPPET ADMINISTRATION

TO carry out their scheme of aggression against South Viet Nam, of perpetuating the partition of our country and turning the South into a neo-colony and military base of the U.S., the American imperialists have endeavoured to set up a puppet State machine which can serve them efficiently. But this scheme has failed long since with the failure of the "special war." Although the U.S. imperialists thereafter have turned the aggressive war against South Viet Nam into a "local war," they still badly need the puppet army as well as the puppet administration. Since the Honolulu and Manila conferences, the U.S. aggressors have sought by every possible trick to stage the farce of a South Viet Nam "administration." But they have met with repeated setbacks, because fundamentally, their aggressive war in South Viet Nam is doomed to defeat, the two U.S. strategic "prongs" — military and political (pacification) — having been seriously broken up, because different strata of the South Viet Nam population, united under the banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, have more clearly than ever realized the corrupt and ferocious features of the puppet army and administration, and are taking part ever more eagerly in the struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

The U.S. political and military circles in Saigon as well as in Washington have been complaining bitterly that their lackeys are incapable, corrupt, despicable. But their running dogs cannot be otherwise. As a matter of fact, the failure of the U.S. aggressors in this farce is only an aspect of their failure in the war of aggression against South Viet Nam. In the wake of the victories they are winning, the army and people of South Viet Nam will more powerfully drive forward, fight against the U.S. aggressors, smash the puppet army and administration, smash everything that supports the aggressors, smash the deceitful contentions about the "commitments" of the U.S. government to the "South Viet Nam administration." Animated with this spirit, our people in South Viet Nam, especially in the cities, will frustrate the election farce of September 3, expose all the vile and criminal features of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, and show to everybody that this is only a ridiculous farce.

THE POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE VIET NAM PROBLEM AND THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS

IN this context, it is necessary to recall our policy regarding a political settlement of the Viet Nam problem and the question of negotiations.

On these questions, the stand, viewpoint and attitude of the Vietnamese people, the Government of the D.R.V.N. and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. are very clear and correct.

On our government's 4-point stand: This stand is the basis of a correct political solution to the Viet Nam problem.

In the very days when the U.S. expanded the war from the South to the North, brazenly carrying out air attacks against the D.R.V.N., our government proclaimed its 4-point stand and the N.F.L. issued its 5-point statement. That is the standpoint of our people's inalienable national rights, and an expression of the main military and political provisions of the Geneva Agreements. That is our people's fighting stand against the U.S. war of aggression.

Along with our military and political victories and at the same tempo, the strength and justness of this stand have become ever clearer, and have won ever more resolute and vigorous approval and support from the world's peoples, world opinion and progressive American opinion.

On its side, the U.S. government has so far completely failed to propose any solution to the Viet Nam problem. All it has been doing is to quibble and resort to hypocritical talk, putting forward now 14, now 7 points, with the sole purpose of camouflaging its aggressive design of clinging to South Viet Nam at all costs, and prolonging the partition of our country.

On the January 28, 1967 statement of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs: We know quite well that the United States does not want to negotiate a settlement of the Viet Nam problem, because U.S. imperialism is aggressive and warlike by nature, all it wants is war, and it is stepping up its aggressive war. To make it possible for everybody and for world opinion to see clearer through the U.S. "peace negotiation" hoax, and at the same time, to show our goodwill, our Foreign Minister issued his statement of January 28, 1967.

The U.S. government has brazenly unleashed a criminal war against the D.R.V.N., an independent and sovereign state, a socialist state. It must therefore definitively and unconditionally stop its bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., and respect her independence, sovereignty and territory. That is a legitimate demand of the Vietnamese people, and also an elementary requirement of international law.

If the Americans really want to talk, they must first of all stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.

The United States has no right to demand any reciprocity whatsoever. Yet it is asking for "mutual withdrawal," and to back this piratical claim, each time it clamours about "peace negotiations," it steps up its aggressive war in the South and its escalation against the North. By so doing, the U.S. ruling circles hope, through bombing and under their conditions, to force us to the conference table. With regard to the world's peoples, including the American people, they hope to confuse white and black, and also blur the line between the aggressor and the victim of aggression.

Our people deeply love peace, but this must be real peace closely linked to independence and freedom, not the kind of American "peace" under the iron heels of the aggressors. So long as the United States pursues its aggression, we will continue to fight. As the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has said in its statement, our southern compatriots will resolutely fight on until not a single American aggressor is left on their beloved soil. Our people will never submit to force, and will never talk under the threat of bombs.

Our people are making every effort to step up the military and political fight on the battlefield, and at the same time, the struggle on the international front, they have unceasingly developed its initiative and offensive position, expose the true features of the perfidious U.S. aggressors.

The U.S. government has provoked the war of aggression in Viet Nam. It must cease its aggression, that is the only way to peace in Viet Nam. The U.S. government must definitively and unconditionally stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.; withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam; recognize the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation; and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs. There is no other way!

OUR VICTORIES ARE ALSO THOSE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN THE WORLD

OUR people's great resistance war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation is a concentrated expression, and stands in the frontline of the revolutionary struggle of the working people and the oppressed nations in the world against the U.S. imperialists, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Our victories are also victories of the revolutionary forces in the world. The other peoples fully understand this fact, that is why the movement of support for our people is gaining in strength, scope and depth; as a matter of fact, a world people's front in support of Viet Nam against the U.S. imperialist aggressors has gradually taken shape. The more our patriotic war drives the U.S. into an impasse and records great victories, the mightier, the deeper and the broader the world people's movement in support of us grows under diverse forms.

On the occasion of the 22nd celebration of the National Day, our people extend cordial greetings and heartfelt thanks to the fraternal socialist countries which are granting them wholehearted support and assistance in all fields—moral and material, political, military and economic.

We warmly hail the fraternal Soviet people who are recording great achievements in the building of the material and technical basis of communism. This year we warmly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Great October Revolution which ushered in a new era in the history of mankind, strongly inspired the working class and the oppressed nations and showed them the way to make revolution, to wipe out step by step imperialism and other reactionary forces, and to win victory for socialism on a world-wide scale. We are unswervingly following the path of the October Revolution, the path of the great Lenin, as we have been doing since the founding of our Party. We are doing our utmost to bring into play the revolutionary ardour of the masses, to overcome all difficulties, determined to win victories in our revolutionary cause and, in the immediate future, to win victory in the struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation and at the same time make our worthy contribution to the revolutionary cause of the world's peoples.

We warmly hail the fraternal Chinese people who are successfully building socialism. In our present struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, the great People's Republic of China is our great rear, the Chinese people are brothers, as close to us as the lips and the teeth. The "Resist the United States and aid Viet Nam" movement of the several hundred million-strong Chinese people, a broad, deep, powerful and diversified movement, is a brilliant manifestation of the militant solidarity between the two peoples. China's successful test of her hydrogen bomb and missiles with nuclear warheads is a positive contribution to the strengthening of the socialist countries, vigorously stimulates the peoples who are struggling for national independence, and is a great encouragement to our people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

True to Marxism-Leninism, our Party and people have always been strengthening solidarity with the fraternal socialist countries, and the international communist and workers' movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

On the occasion of the 22nd celebration of the National Day, our people extends cordial greetings and sincere thanks to the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples who have always been standing on our side in a spirit of mutual approval and support in the struggle against the common enemy—U.S. imperialism—to defend the national rights. We deeply rejoice at the happy development of the militant solidarity between our people and the Cambodian people as shown by the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the two countries and by our country's statement to recognize and respect the present frontiers of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Our people resolutely and unreservedly support the people of Arab countries who continue to carry aloft the banner of struggle against the U.S. imperialists and the Israeli reactionary forces, in defence of their national independence and territorial integrity.

On the occasion of the 22nd celebration of the National Day, our people extends cordial greetings and sincere thanks to the international working class, the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, and the peace-loving peoples throughout the world, including the American people, who are actively supporting our resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

We are very glad to note that the movement of support for our people is being more and more closely combined with the struggle of the working people and oppressed nations in the world for independence, freedom and their vital interests, against the U.S. imperialists' policy of intervention and aggression in various countries. We highly appreciate the success of the first session of the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal to try the U.S. imperialist aggressors, and expose their odious crimes in the South and in the North of our country: crimes of aggression, crimes of war and crimes against mankind. The Bertrand Russell International Tribunal is an event which clearly shows that broad sections of world opinion and the conscience of progressive mankind are on our side.

To be worthy of the great, precious and warm support and assistance of our brothers and friends all over the five continents, our people resolutely fight on, and are sure to defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors for the sake of our national interests and of the world people's revolutionary cause.

THE DAY OF SPLENDID VICTORY IS AWAITING US

AHEAD of us is a period of ever more arduous and fierce fighting. The enemy keeps escalating the war. He is committing most barbarous crimes against our people and are piling up the blood debt he has to pay to our compatriots in both North and South Viet Nam. More than ever, our compatriots and fighters throughout the country nurture a deep hatred for the aggressors. They are resolved to translate their hatred into

(Continued page 7)

1967 FIRST SIX-MONTH PLAN FULFILLED

THE 1967 State Plan of the D.R.V.N. has set the following fundamental requirements: to muster the nation's strength for the fighting, ensure a decent living standard for the people in war time, preserve and develop the economic potential and boost production. To meet these requirements the North Viet Nam people have concentrated on key problems: agricultural production — especially of foodstuffs — building and development of regional industry, and maintenance of communications and transport.

In agriculture: The Winter-Spring crop was a bumper one both as regards rice, maize and sweet potatoes. The Winter-Spring rice crop recorded an increase of 21 per cent compared with 1966. Many co-operatives yielded 3 tons per hectare. The outstanding feature in the Winter-Spring crop was that the area under Spring rice was expanded in many places and the yield soared up, which opened up new prospects for the increase of crops and their rotation. Moreover, in many localities particular importance was paid to subsidiary crops, the area under sweet potatoes extended by 18 per cent in comparison with the last Winter-Spring, the output of sweet potatoes was a big one (6-7 tons per hectare in the average), the area under maize and vegetables and their productivity increased. Food output in terms of rice equivalent went up by 13 per cent as compared with the previous dry season — paddy alone accounting for 9 per cent.

In the conditions of a fierce war and unfavourable weather, the above-mentioned achievements are highly significant in many respects. They show that in whatever situation the North Viet Nam people can develop agriculture vigorously, raise the yield of their crops and consolidate their co-operatives.

In industry: The outstanding achievement was the establishment and all-round development of regional industry. In the first half of 1967 the gross value of the state-run regional industry alone rose 11.7 per cent compared with the same period last year. Despite enemy repeated attacks the gross value of Hanoi's regional industry increased by 10.5 per cent, particularly as regards wood, paper, glass, chinaware, weaving, clothes, aluminium ware, engineering. All told the branches dealing with the means of production recorded a 58 per cent rise. As (for Haiphong, in May 1967 alone—a month of U.S. fierce attacks — regional industry output was 5 per cent higher than in the previous month; within two months the supply of farm implements, lime and building materials trebled in comparison with the same period last year. Regional industry went farther on the way of serving agriculture, communications and transport and the people's life. In the first half of 1967 industrial goods serving agriculture increased by 34.2 per cent and those serving communications and transport increased by 25 per cent more than in the same period last year. As regards capital construction, hundreds of new units belonging to various branches: engineering, cement, paper, fish sauce... were put into operation, many undertakings were build even in localities where fierce battles took place. Though many factories were repeatedly attacked, production went on by various means to serve the fighting and the people's living standard.

(Continued page 7)

Earth, Life and Men

Account given by JORIS IVENS on his stay in Viet Nam

IN Vinh Linh, the earth not only feeds the farmer but also defends him against the enemy. All activities of life are conducted in the womb of the earth. It is hard, but this valiant people endure it courageously. The American imperialists commit one of their most monstrous crimes by forcing the Vietnamese people to live under the earth. The children in Vinh Linh are paler than their Hanoi mates from want of fresh air...

We filmed an underground printing workshop. There was a pedal machine which ran off a paper and leaflets. Six workers — two women and four men — were employed. Of course, there was a shelter behind the machine. What was interesting, I saw a worker by a wooden table, with a metal tube used as an ink-roller. The tube bore the inscription: "U.S. Navy." for it was the shell of one of those numerous flares dropped every night over Vinh Linh. I asked the man: "Why use this? Haven't you got a machine that works very well?" He answered: "Yes, but we have to prepare for worse. For example, if the enemy land here, we'll move to a safer place and go on printing our paper with our modest 'invention'." It was indeed an "invention." With material "supplied" by the enemy, a simple worker had made a device which could print 200 copies in an hour.

THERE is a lot of other things to speak of. For instance, when you go to Vinh Linh or Quang Binh, or to other places in Viet Nam, you see many bomb craters. Farmers make good use of them, sometimes raising fish in them.

We also filmed young villagers filling up craters. It is unusual indeed to see the way people here look at realities, which, in other countries, would seem depressing. These young villagers—about thirty — fiercely attacked a crater, digging with spades, with all tools available. In ten minutes, the hole had disappeared, replaced by a plot to be planted with sweet potatoes. The potato field, once bearing an enormous hole, was now completely green with vegetation. That made a deep impression.

Craters were a leitmotiv in our film. During our stay in Vinh Linh, we had not any opportunity to shoot burning U.S. planes shot down by A.A. units or Vietnam pilots captured by the people. But we had one day an opportunity to film an immense crater on the side of a road, a grave dug the day before by one or two criminals of a *Phantom* which had fallen with all their bombs. Nothing was left of the plane but fragments not bigger than my watch, nothing was left of the pilots but some rags hanging on trees, on the brink of the pit. Such was the lot of these criminals.

Such craters are of no use and cost much money. Mr Johnson. We saw small six-foot long bridges crossing streamlets, often dry, surrounded with hundreds of craters. It was reminiscent of a lunar landscape. However, people crossed the small bridge. In spite of their technique, the enemy could do nothing. People passed through in spite of all. As officials of the Ministry of Communications have put it, "As soon as the enemy destroys roads, we repair them and keep the traffic moving." We witnessed it every hour, every day during our trips.

IN this part of Viet Nam, and everywhere in Viet Nam, daily life and the struggle are closely linked. The struggle becomes life itself. Forced to struggle, the Vietnamese people struggle with courage, tenaciousness, confidence in their victory.

For this province that means clinging to the land. It is astonishing that over these past years, in spite of the shrinking of cultivated areas (because of bomb craters) and the cut in work time (because of frequent alerts), rice, maize, manioc and sweet potatoes production has been rising. It is a wonder! People here understand that production is also a front in the struggle against the aggressors.

Along with it, life just goes on: family life, schools... These are hospitals, even "theatres." We filmed artistic performances — of a high standard — given at night before numerous spectators who were out of harm's way for the "hall" was deep under the ground.

It was extraordinary for it took place on May 15, at a time when the Americans were launching operations in the 17th parallel area with a view to turning it into a "white" (no man's land) area — rather "red" with the blood of massacred Vietnamese and of Americans. The situation was tense. We could however film farmers working in rice-fields, near the Hien Luong bridge, we also photographed fishing scenes on the Ben Hai river at Vinh Giang on the day of truce *. But agricultural work was done on other days too. It was hard for there were continually planes in the sky. The danger came not only from above. There were also batteries from the prowling 7th Fleet and the pounding by guns stationed at Con Tien and Doc Mieu, small hills 15 kilometres south of the 17th parallel where American troops were encamped. The latter shot point blank at villages along

(Continued page 7)

* *On the occasion of the birthday of Buddha.*

A militia girl on the acreage of a U.S. plane

THE PEOPLE'S MILITIA AND SELF-DEFENCE FORCES IN AIRCRAFT HUNTING

OVER the last few years, the people's militia and self-defence forces have greatly contributed to the brilliant victories of the North Viet Nam army and population who have downed over 2,200 U.S. aircraft and captured a great number of American pilots.

In close co-ordination with the A.A. defence, the air force and missile units, the people's militia and self-defence forces, with their light weapons, have achieved glorious exploits. Hereunder are some details:

16 provinces have downed American planes:

Vinh Linh, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Nam Ha, Ha Bac, Hai Phong, Hai Duong, Quang Ninh, Hoa Binh, Phu Tho, Son La, Lai Chau, Nghia Lo.

9 districts have downed 10 planes at night:

Le Thuy, Quang Trach, Bo Trach, Tuyen Hoa (Quang Binh province);

Cam Xuyen and Ky Anh (Ha Tinh province);

Quynh Luu (Nghe An province),

Tinh Gia (Thanh Hoa province),

Giao Thuy (Nam Ha province).

Outstanding performances:

One F.105 downed by 12 rifleshots on June 25, 1965 at Quang Trach (Quang Binh province.

One A.4 downed by 9 rifle-shots on July 28, 1965 at Minh Hoa (Quang Binh province).

One A.4 downed by 7 rifleshots on September 2, 1965 at Son Dong (Ha Bac province).

One F.4 and one F.105 downed by 2 rifleshots on October 18 and 20, 1965 at Huong Khe (Ha Tinh province) and Pho Yen (Nghia Lo province).

One F.105 and one F.4 downed at Dien Chau (Nghe An province) on August 3, 1965.

At sea

One A.D6 downed on June 25, 1966 at Nghi Xuan (Ha Tinh province).

Found on the shore:

One F.4C downed on July 10, 1966 at Le Thuy (Quang Binh province).

In the rain:

Two scout helicopters downed on February 16, 1967 at Quang Binh and Bo Trach (Quang Binh province).

Colonel Wallace Hynds' plane downed on April 2, 1967 at Huong Khe (Ha Tinh province).

18 types of U.S. planes downed:

Fighter planes A.4C, A.4E, A.3D, A.6A, A.D6, A.D5, F.4B, F.4C, F.105, F.100, F.8.

Reconnaissance planes: A.3J, EDIE, L.19, RF.101, RF4C

Helicopters: H.43.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE D.R.V.N. SEPTEMBER 2, 1945 – 1967

For Independence and Freedom, We Shall Defeat the U.S. Aggressors

(NHAN DAN editorial, Sept. 2, 1967)

THE 2nd of September, the founding day of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, is the glorious National Day of our country. Following the victorious August General Uprising the Vietnamese people established their power. That was the revolutionary power of the people, first of all the workers, peasants and other strata of the working people. It was also the power of the patriotic forces rallying within the national united front led by the working class. The establishment of the people's revolutionary power and the downfall of the colonial administration of the imperialists was a great turning point in our nation's history. Tens of millions of Vietnamese from their position of an enslaved people who had lost their country to a foreign power at long last became masters of their country, of their own destiny. This change created a new strength which the aggressive imperialists could not evaluate.

It was to test this strength that the French colonialists failed ignominiously.

It is now to test this strength that the U.S. imperialists are experiencing the biggest failures in their history.

A nation which has wrested back power through a long revolutionary struggle and conducted an armed struggle for decades, has an invincible strength that is sure to defeat any imperialist aggressors. The socialist regime which is in the making in North Viet Nam is a new and inexhaustible source of strength of our entire people.

The U.S. imperialists have used formidable forces in the hope of subduing our people and realizing their schemes of aggression and enslavement. However, through many years of confrontation, their strength has been seriously challenged. Meanwhile, the strength in all fields of the Vietnamese revolution has not ceased to increase in the process of struggle to fulfil the historic tasks of the national people's democratic revolution throughout the country and the process of building socialism in the North.

Since the August Revolution our people have conducted an unremitting revolutionary struggle and have continuously won glorious successes. Very far-reaching revolutionary changes in all aspects have taken place in the Vietnamese society during the past twenty two years.

THE unjust aggressive war of the U.S. imperialists has met with heavy failures. More than one million enemy troops are weakening and disintegrating after serious defeats in two successive "strategic dry-season counter offensives." They have sunk deeper in the quagmire and have been driven to greater passivity. The U.S. and puppet troops who have not recovered from the stunning blows at the hands of the Liberation Armed Forces in the last dry season, are receiving repeated and unexpected blows on all battlefields from Quang Tri to Point Ca Mau in the current rainy season. Just as their "search and destroy" plan has gone bankrupt, their "pacification program" has been smashed to pieces. The farce being staged in Saigon with a view to legalizing the puppet administration cannot check the latter's rapid decay.

Neither has the brutal war of destruction waged by the U.S. imperialists against North Viet Nam brought them any good. It could not in the least shake the fighting morale of our people and prevent the support of the North to the South. On the contrary the aggressors have had to pay a very high price for their crimes.

After having thrown all their big forces into the war, the U.S. aggressors are finding themselves in a stalemate and hopeless situation. Obviously their possibilities to intensify and prolong the war have become limited. Their reckless war of aggression has become a huge bottomless bay to bury human and material resources of the United States. The whole domestic and foreign affairs of the Johnson administration have been seriously affected by its failures in Viet Nam. The impasse in the aggressive war in Viet Nam has become the number one problem of the United States.

However, the Johnson clique remain a group of stubborn and stupid warmongers. They continue to rush headlong on their criminal path. They are escalating their war and using military pressure and at the same time repeating the hackneyed "peace" professions in an attempt to fool public opinion.

To all this, the answer of our army and people is to fight, fight on and fight harder until the aggressors meet with complete failure and their aggressive design is definitively smashed. The only way for the U.S. to get out of its criminal war is to end its war of aggression, bring home all its expeditionary troops and completely and definitively end its intervention in the internal affairs of the Vietnamese people.

THE sacred war of resistance of our people against U.S. aggression for national salvation has won tremendous successes and will certainly end in complete victory. The all-round force of our resistance increases unceasingly. The assistance given us by the fraternal socialist countries, our neighbours and the world's people has contributed to the rapid growth of our force in all fields. Along with the glorious victories on the battlefronts in both zones, our people have also won brilliant successes in other fields, political, economic, cultural, etc... The high tide of resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation which began to surge up among our entire army and people since President Ho Chi Minh made his sacred appeal has reached unprecedented scope and vigour. It is the firm determination of our entire army and people to stand ready to make any sacrifice for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, to stand ready to carry on the fight for 5, 10, 20 more years or even longer in order to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country. That is also the pledge of our entire people to live up to the Independence Oath. Our entire army and people, united around our Party and President Ho Chi Minh, will definitively overcome all difficulties and hardships to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors.

The great fight of our compatriots and the Liberation Armed Forces in South Viet Nam under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is playing the decisive role in the war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation waged by our entire people. The growth and strength of the resistance of our southern compatriots is the firm guarantee for final victory. The Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (*) adopted at the recent Extraordinary Congress of the Front embodies

(Continued page 7)

(*) *See* Viet Nam Courier, *No 127, special issue.*

Always ready to fight and to do production work.

THE MONOLITHIC BLOC OF THE NATION IS THE INVINCIBLE FORCE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

OVER the past two decades the Vietnamese people have written the most brilliant pages of their history: they have brought to success the August Revolution (1945), founded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam — the first people's democratic state in South-East Asia — vanquished the French colonialist aggressors, and are now in the process of defeating more than one million aggressive and mercenary troops of U.S. imperialism, the chieftain of world imperialism.

The secret of those outstanding achievements lies precisely in the unity of the whole people. Indeed, the Vietnamese people possess fine and long-standing traditions of struggle against foreign invasion, thanks to which in the two thousand years of their national history they got the better of one aggressor after another to win and safeguard the independence and unity of their motherland. Ever since the Vietnamese proletariat took over the banner and assumed the leadership of the revolution with the formation in 1930 of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party — now the Viet Nam Workers' Party — the policy of uniting the entire people within a national united front has been brought to the fore and, as a result, the Viet Nam revolution has been registering ever more and greater successes.

In 1930 and 1931, no sooner had the United Anti-Imperialist Front been set up than a high tide of revolutionary struggle swept throughout the country, particularly the relentless struggle of wide sections of workers and peasants, which culminated in the overthrow of the colonial-feudal power and the establishment of the worker-peasant soviet power in the two provinces of Nghe An and Ha Tinh.

From 1936 to 1939, in face of the grave danger of a fascist war, the Indo-Chinese Democratic Front came into existence which rallied all social classes, political parties, democratic personalities and various strata of the population, even local progressive Frenchmen, to take concerted actions against colonialist reaction against war, for democratic reforms, improvement of the people's living standards and the defence of world peace.

After the outbreak of World War II, the Vietnamese revolutionaries shifted the activities of the Indo-Chinese Democratic Front to the creation of a national-liberation movement. By mid-1941 President Ho Chi Minh convened a conference for the creation of the League for the Independence of Viet Nam (Viet Minh). The League stood for the union of all patriotic people, rich and poor, young and old, men and women, regardless of their religious faiths and political tendencies, in a common fight to drive out the Japanese and French fascists and achieve national independence. It put forward a program with concrete political, economic, cultural and social policies, consistent with the demands and aspirations of all the strata of the people. Under the Viet Minh's national-salvation banner, all Vietnamese patriots, from the workers, peasants, petty bourgeois, intellectuals, students and pupils to the national bourgeois and patriotic landlords, rose up in a powerful struggle: the August Revolution (1945) triumphed, breaking the fetters of 80 years of colonial rule, toppling the millenary monarchy, and founded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

In their attempt to reconquer Viet Nam the French reactionary colonialists staged a come-back, thus threatening the survival of the newly-born revolutionary power. In such a situation the National Union Front (Lien Viet) was set up, including adherents to the Viet Minh League and those thus far standing aloof from it, thereby further broadening the unity of the people to better deal with the internal and external enemies. Rallied in the Lien Viet, the entire Vietnamese people waged a hard and protracted patriotic war which ended with the Dien Bien Phu victory and the 1954 Geneva Agreements. These accords recognize the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam.

With the revolution switching over to a new stage the Vietnamese people had to accomplish two strategic tasks: the building of socialism in the North and the prosecution of the liberation struggle in the South, for eventual national reunification. For the realization of these two glorious tasks the Viet Nam Fatherland Front came into being. Its aim is to unite all the national, democratic and peace-loving forces, to win over every individual that can be won over, for the resistance against U.S. imperialism and its valets so as to build up a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and strong Viet Nam. The Viet Nam Fatherland Front has been bending its energies to mobilizing all social strata to push forward the revolution. With the basic completion of socialist transformation, the North Vietnamese society has gone through far-reaching changes and political and moral identity of mind has become its salient feature. Thus the national united front has a more important and steadier basis which ranks as one of the reasons why the army and people in the North have been in a position to foil every of the U.S. escalation by downing more than 2,200 aircraft and killing and capturing a large number of pilots, why in the flames of war socialist construction forges ahead, and why at the same time the people can assist the patriotic fight of their kith and kin in the South, thus discharging the responsibilities of the big rear towards the big front.

In South Viet Nam, the National Front for Liberation was created on December 20 1960, marking a turning point in the struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation of the 14-million South Vietnamese people. With its just political line and its sound 10-point program, the NFL is gaining ever more supporters and mobilizing ever larger patriotic sections of the people in the resolute struggle against U.S. imperialism and its agents to achieve independence, democracy, improvement of the people's living conditions, peace and neutrality in South Viet Nam, pending national reunification. Under the N.F.L.'s banner, the 14 million South Vietnamese have risen up to defend their land and accomplished splendid feats of arms by crushing the U.S.-dominated Diem dictatorial regime, by fundamentally frustrating the U.S. "special war" and, at present, by defeating the U.S. aggressors in one of the most important phases of their "limited war," the greatest of this kind to date.

HISTORICAL realities in Viet Nam have shown that whenever national unity is strengthened and the national united front is consolidated and enlarged, the people's revolutionary struggle scores new successes.

Imbued with this truth the 31 million Vietnamese, from North to South, are determined to promote their traditions of national union, to close their ranks, endure all hardships and sacrifices, with a view to defeating the American aggressors for the defence of the North, the liberation of the South and the eventual reunification of their country. They thereby contribute to the world people's struggle for national independence, peace, democracy and social progress.

IN THE WAKE OF THE 1945 AUGUST REVOLUTION

TRA BONG Strikes the Spark

THROUGHOUT the nine years of resistance to the French colonialists, the people of Tra Bong, a mountain district of Quang Ngai province lying deep in the liberated zone of the Fifth Interzone (South Viet Nam), eagerly took part in the movement and in the building of a new, healthy and happy life. After the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements while sending off their sons and daughters who were to regroup to North Viet Nam, the Tra Bong people took the solemn pledge to "remain absolutely loyal to the revolution and Uncle Ho (President Ho Chi Minh)."

On October 30, 1954, the enemy came to Tra Bong. But they dared not venture out of the district town. They fired their guns day and night to maintain their morale and also to intimidate the unarmed people. That marked the end of peace in Tra Bong and the beginning of the people's anxiety.

Between June and September 1955, the Ngo Dinh Diem administration sent thousands of troops and agents into five villages around the district town in the so-called "Phan Chu Trinh campaign to win over the montagnard tribes." Enemy troops encircled the mountains, blocked all ways up and broke into each house to force the inhabitants to join the "denounce the communists" campaign, to forsake our Party, to give back the landlords the land which the revolutionary administration had allotted them during the anti-French resistance.

Early 1957, the enemy carried out endless raids and persecution, forcing the Tra Bong people to build military roads and posts all over the district and drafting youths into the puppet army. No village was left without some people killed or maimed by torture. Ngo Dinh Diem and his U.S. "advisers" tried to create an atmosphere of white terror with a view to cutting off the people from the revolution. However, no force could alter the minds of the Tra Bong people.

Many young people began to leave their villages to engage in revolutionary activities and the first armed groups made their appearance. Unit 339, the first armed unit of Tra Bong and also of Quang Ngai province, came into existence.

On August 13, 1959, 400 people in Tra Giang and Tra Thuy villages staged a march down to the district town to protest against the farcical "parliamentary election" of the Ngo Dinh Diem regime. The enemy sent out troops to bar the way to the demonstrators, opened fire on them and dispersed them. A few days later, troops were dispatched to the villages for downright repression. But the people had left the villages for the mountains after having cut the roads and hidden their property. At the same time Unit 339, in co-ordination with the armed groups of the people, laid ambushes against the raiders and set free many people who were forced to go to the polling booths at bayonet point.

When came August 28, 1959, the "election day," the villagers went out to their rice plots on the hills, leaving only the old folks behind. The enemy sent lorries to take the villagers to the polling booths. Finding the homes nearly empty, they sent troops to the hills to round up the villagers. But the latter refused to go to the polls, pretesting that they had to grow rice and maize to combat famine since the "nationalist government" had robbed them of the last grain of paddy.

As the soldiers tried to make the villagers go at gun point, a melee erupted. Immediately these inhabitants sounded the alarm by uttering long howls and beating tocsins, gongs and drums. The howls and beatings were repeated from one hamlet to another, from one village to another amidst the gunshots of Unit 339 sniping at enemy troops. At Tra Quan many youths used their hands to grapple with enemy soldiers, killing 8 of them in the scuffle.

At Ta Khe, 6 enemy troops and 2 agents escorted 15 people to a polling booth. These suddenly swung round, beat to death the two agents and took all the six soldiers prisoner.

The whole Tra Bong stood up.

In every hamlet and village people rose in arms to kill or chase away enemy agents, then organized their own self-defence forces. Day and night the villages rang with the sounds of gongs, tocsins and horns. At night torches would be seen burning in all parts of the jungles. The revolutionary masses went out to encircle and set fire to enemy posts at Eo Reo, Eo Chim,

(Continued page 7)

North Viet Nam

U.S. Losses in August 1967:

— 118 PLANES DOWNED

— MANY PILOTS CAPTURED

— 5 WAR VESSELS DAMAGED

Up to September 2, 1967

2,265 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED

U.S. AIR BOMBINGS OF HANOI STRONGLY CONDEMNED BY WORLD'S PEOPLE

The repeated air raids on Hanoi, capital of the D.R.V.N., on August 11, 12, 21, 22 and 23, 1967 have aroused a strong wave of protest in the world. In its issue No 125, Viet Nam Courier *has published declarations of many governments condemning this U.S. war escalation.*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IN its statement, the Permanent Secretariat of the **Asian, African and Latin American Solidarity Committee** pointed out, "The bombings of Hanoi, an extremely dangerous step of the U.S. in its war escalation, show that the U.S. imperialists have ridden roughshod over international law and flouted the protest of the world's people. Behind the smokescreen of peace and unconditional negotiations, the Johnson administration continues to send more U.S. and satellite troops to South Viet Nam and steps up the war of destruction in North Viet Nam. This lays bare the cruel and bellicose nature of the U.S. government."

The **International Association of Democratic Lawyers** made on Aug. 25 a statement stressing "The American authorities' declaration for the stepping up of these bombings and the attacks on new targets has exposed the intention of the U.S. to escalate its war against Viet Nam."

The **Women's International Democratic Federation** sent to the Viet Nam Women's Union a letter saying, "The true face of U.S. imperialism has been unmasked. Millions of women in the world have enhanced their solidarity with you and supported you morally and materially until the U.S. imperialists stop bombing North Viet Nam, withdraw their troops from the South and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves."

Through its President, Mme Isabelle Blume, and its Secretary, Mr. R. Sandra, the **World Peace Council** has sent to President Johnson a message saying, "On behalf of people of conscience the World Peace Council opposes the recent criminal bombings of Viet Nam by the U.S."

The **Tri-Continental Committee in Support of Viet Nam**'s statement pointed out, "The repeated air raids conducted by the U.S. imperialists against Hanoi and the bombings of many localities in Vinh Linh on August 23 by U.S. B-52 planes are most serious and inhuman acts of war of the Johnson administration condemned by mankind.

"The Committee calls on the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and all peace- and justice-loving people in the world, including the American people, to staunchly support the just struggle of the Vietnamese people and take concrete measures to stay the bellicose and aggressive hands of the U.S. imperialists."

NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES, POLITICAL PARTIES, GOVERNMENTS AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORLD

THE Chairman of the National Council of the National Front of the G.D.R. voiced the high indignation of the people of the **German Democratic Republic** against the U.S. new criminal bombings of Hanoi. He stressed, "All the people of the G.D.R. resolutely stand on the side of the Vietnamese people in those critical hours and enhance their solidarity with them."

The National Assembly of **Cambodia** considered the bloody crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists to be the most barbarous and inhuman acts never seen in the world of today. These atrocious acts of the U.S. government against the D.R.V.N. people who have never declared war on the U.S. and asked only to live in peace and independence, show to the peoples the world over how serious and dangerous is the unjust aggression by a big neo-colonialist country dazzled by its monstrous ambitions against a small and materially and militarily less powerful country.

Considering that the recent escalation is a new outright violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements by the U.S. imperialists, the Cambodian National Assembly declares that it wholeheartedly supports the resolve of the Vietnamese people to heroically fight U.S. troops until final victory for the independence and freedom of their dear Fatherland. It strongly condemns the savage acts of the U.S. imperialists, calls on the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference to make the U.S. government fully respect the 1954 Geneva Agreements and compel it to stop its aggression and bombings, withdraw forthwith its troops from Viet Nam and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs. It also calls on the peoples all over the world to use all means at their disposal to put an end to the U.S. dirty war in Viet Nam, a war which threatens South-East Asia and Asia as a whole.

The Socialist Youth Committee of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Phnom Penh has sent to the Viet Nam Youth Union a message in 23 by U.S. B-52 planes are most serious and inhuman acts of war of the Johnson administration condemned by mankind.

"The Committee calls on the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and all peace- and justice-loving people in the world, including the American people, to staunchly support the just struggle of the Vietnamese

In its August 26 statement, the Foreign Ministry of the **People's Republic of Mongolia** said, "Over the last few years, the American authorities have escalated their criminal war in Viet Nam and made use of most up-to-date lethal weapons in order to browbeat the Vietnamese people. Clear proofs of these are the air attacks on towns and villages in the D.R.V.N. and Hanoi capital.

"The government and people of Mongolia energetically condemn the new criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and voice anew their staunch support for the struggle of the Vietnamese people."

The Communist Party of **Italy** stressed in its declaration, "The escalation of the U.S. in Viet Nam calls for an answer which is to unite with and support Viet Nam and to condemn U.S. aggression. The democratic forces must understand that this aggression against Viet Nam is a boil which needs to be operated upon at once."

A three-hour demonstration was held on August in 24 front of the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, **Denmark**, protesting against the U.S. bombing of heavily populated quarters in the centre of Hanoi and its periphery.

The Lawyers' Association, the Peace Committee, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and the Support-Viet Nam Committee in the **U.S.S.R** issued statements condemning the U.S. imperialists aggression and stressed that the U.S. air raids on Hanoi capital on Aug. 21 and 22 were towering crimes testifying that the U.S. imperialists stubbornly pursue their war escalation policy and step up their aggressive war in Viet Nam.

In **Hungary** the T.U.s. of many workshops and enterprises in Szombathely and the Vas area organized many meetings in which they strongly condemned the new crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists against the Hanoi people. The demonstrators passed messages of protest to be sent to the American embassy in Budapest and decided to work overtime in support of the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the U.S. and for national salvation.

The D.R.V.N. embassy in Sofia, **Bulgaria**, is flooded with telegrams and letters from factories and enterprises voicing their indignation against U.S. air raids on Hanoi and pledging their support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people.

In **France**, a delegation of the French Peace Movement and many other delegations in the Paris region on Aug. 18 handed over to the American embassy their protests against the U.S. air bombings of Hanoi.

The Youth in Oslo, **Norway**, held a demonstration and picketed the U.S. embassy. They stuck at the wall of a building near the embassy the slogan "End forthwith the terrorist bombing of Viet Nam."

FOREIGN PRESS OPINION

THE HANDS OF THE BANDITS IN THE PENTAGON SHOULD BE STAYED

THE **Pravda** (U.S.S.R.) in its August 22, 1967 commentary wrote: "The American militarists have recently committed a new crime. On August 21, U.S. planes, using high explosive bombs, repeatedly attacked Hanoi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Many populous quarters were bombed. This new step in Washington's war escalation against the civilian population of the D.R.V.N. has aroused the indignation of honest people all over the world.

"... The Vietnamese people have proved that no act of terror can intimidate them. They are fully conscious of the justice of their cause, and of the approval and support given them by peace-loving people in the world, who demand that the hands of the bandits in the Pentagon, of the criminals, be stayed."

•

The **Renmin Ribao** (R.P. of China) on August 22 condemned the U.S. for its new step in war escalation against the D.R.V.N. The article pointed out: "Whatever step he may make in escalating the war, Johnson will finally be defeated... In fact, the 'brink-of-war' policy of the Johnson administration is no novelty. Compared with the American government in the time of Dulles, the Johnson administration is in an even more difficult situation and its forces have further weakened.

"To whatever extent the U.S. may hysterically step up its aggressive war against Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will never be shaken in their will to reunify their country and struggle against the U.S. imperialists for national salvation. The heroic Vietnamese people will never let themselves be intimidated by the U.S. imperialists' frantic bombings. They will turn hatred into strength and deal telling blows at the American bandits."

•

In its commentary, the **Rodong Shimeon** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) wrote: "The military failure suffered by the U.S. in its aggressive war against Viet Nam, its economic and financial difficulties and political isolation at home and abroad which are directly related to the aforesaid failure, have driven the Johnson clique to an impasse and a dilemma. It tries to get out of this blind alley by extending its aggressive war against Viet Nam and stepping up its air raids over North Viet Nam. However, this new step taken by the U.S. imperialists in their military adventure cannot save them from total defeat in Viet Nam."

•

The **Granma** (Cuba) in its August 25 commentary stressed: "One of the causes of the bombing is the U.S. impotence in face of its strategic failure in South Viet Nam where the strategy of the most powerful imperialist army is pitted against the revolutionary strategy of the people's army and guerillas of a small and underdeveloped country. At present, U.S. failure is no secret to anyone. Even the American press has reflected this fact. Some people in the U.S. ruling circles have started criticizing the U.S. adventure in Viet Nam. American imperialism has been and still is in a tunnel with no end in sight."

•

The **Trybuna Ludu** (Poland) commented on August 25, 1967: "The Polish people condemn with indignation the cruel imperialists. They know quite well what bombings of great cities mean... In continuing and intensifying air attacks against the D.R.V.N., Washington should be held responsible for the serious consequences arising from its criminal acts."

•

The Sofia press (Bulgaria) on August 24, 1967 carried many commentaries condemning U.S. bombings of Hanoi. The **Otechestven** wrote: "It is not military necessities but the criminal and absurd will of those who, over the last five years, have suffered bitter defeats at the hands of the Liberation army which lie at the source of the crimes committed by U.S. pilots in North Viet Nam. The more bombings are carried out by the U.S. against North Viet Nam, the more the policy of the U.S. government in South Viet Nam will be stigmatized by the world people. Those bombings will only urge the friends of Viet Nam to give ever more help to her heroic people."

•

The **Republica** (Venezuela) on August 26 carried an article condemning the U.S. escalation. The article stressed: "Those acts of the U.S. are evidence of President Johnson's despair. The problems of South-East Asia cannot be solved by means of war. The fact that over the last two years, half a million U.S. troops and the force of U.S. weapons have failed to suppress the resistance of the heroic Vietnamese people, is a proof."

For Independence and Freedom, We Shall Defeat the U.S. Aggressors

(Continued from page 4)

the great victories recorded by our compatriots and expresses the will and aspirations of the 14 million compatriots in the South. It is rallying all patriotic and democratic forces in South Viet Nam to carry through the patriotic struggle till complete victory.

As the great rear of the revolution in the whole country, North Viet Nam is firmly determined to live up to its pledge to the compatriots in the South and will do its utmost to support the great front.

The entire army and people throughout the country will resolutely rush forward in the mettle of new victories to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors. Let us bring into effect Premier Pham Van Dong's words in his appeal made on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the Government to the entire army and people:

"Let us rush forward with the mettle of victors, with the firm determination to defend the North, liberate the South and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country, in order to build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, strong and prosperous Viet Nam, thus contributing to the defence of peace in South-East Asia and the world."

The just war of resistance of our people against U.S. aggression, for national salvation will certainly end in complete victory.

1967 FIRST SIX-MONTH PLAN ...

(Continued from page 3)

In communications and transport, we kept on overcoming the difficulties created by the enemy, satisfactorily fulfilled the transport plan on ever longer distances. The communication system was in good order, ensuring a widespread distribution of commodities to serve agriculture, industry, regional industry, national defence and the people's livelihood.

Distribution and distribution of goods for the people's consumption were more active. The State timely supplied foodstuffs to areas in need. That is why despite the war the people's living standard was stable.

Education satisfactorily finished its 1966—1967 school year, the second "Resist U.S. aggression for national salvation" one. General education developed vigorously in all respects. 14 new higher education establishments and scores of middle vocational schools were opened. Despite the urgent needs of production and the fighting, complementary education developed vigorously, evenly in a right direction under many appropriate forms. Throughout North Viet Nam 5,600,000 people (children and grown ups) now attend school.

Above are the main achievements of a number of branches in the fulfilment of the State plan in the first half of 1967. Through great trials the North Viet Nam people stand firm and grow up in the fighting. Despite U.S. imperialists' intensified attacks the resistance of the North Viet Nam people is stronger and stronger, and they have more capabilities to defeat aggression.

(Continued from page 8)

1967. War expenditures of the Saigon administration increase yearly: 46 billion piastres in 1965, 55 billion in 1966 and 75 billion (target figure) in 1967. The budget deficits in 1965 and 1966 amounted to 57 billion piastres. Thieu-Ky had to print more bank notes, thus bringing about a serious inflation. In June 1966, on U.S. orders, they devalued the piastre (Saigon currency) by a half, thus robbing the inhabitants of tens of billions of piastres. Prices rise skyhigh: the retail price of rice increased by 35 per cent in 1965, 67 per cent in 1966 and even 113 per cent for some commodities (*AFP*, Jan. 13, 1967). The living conditions of the people are more and more miserable, even the puppet troops and personnel of low brackets in the puppet administration live in want to the point that some officials have to serve as waiters for the Yankees.

Thieu-Ky...

Count Seven: **Fomenting Social Evils in Cities and Towns**.

THE Saigon press has been complaining about hooliganism which is rampant in the cities. *G.P.X.* (Liberation Press Agency) denounced: "Saigon is no longer the Pearl of the Far East because the U.S. aggressors occupy buildings and cordon off streets, and because brothels where U.S. expeditionary troops indulge in beastly behaviour mushroom. By February 1966, there were in Saigon as many as 70,000 prostitutes, 40,000 beggars and 300,000 unemployed.

"Hue is no longer a respectable city as thousands of American G.I.'s are rampaging the streets, assaulting women in broad daylight..."

It is the Thieu-Ky junta itself that has decreed the opening of "only American" whorecamps.

Count Eight: **Staging U.S.-Inspired Political Farces to Camouflage U.S. Neo-Colonialism and Maintain the Puppet Regime on the Brink of Collapse**.

SINCE June 1966, at U.S. instigation, the Thieu—Ky clique have staged the "political congress," the election to "the Constituent Assembly," and election of village and hamlet chiefs. Although these farces were boycotted by the people, they have announced the returns of these fraudulent elections. The biggest of all bluffs is the current presidential and parliamentary election farce held at U.S. request to sanction the Saigon puppet regime abhorred by the people.

Count Nine: **Tailing after the U.S. in Its War of Destruction against North Viet Nam**.

EVEN when they were serving the Diem brothers, Thieu and Ky had already clamoured for a "march on the North." Ky himself had on many occasions air-dropped spies and commandos on North Viet Nam. When the U.S. unleashed its war of destruction against the D.R.V.N., Thieu and Ky showed great satisfaction and expressed deep gratitude toward the U.S. aggressors. Ky even took part in a bombing raid over Quang Binh and Vinh Linh. Thieu and Ky's hostility towards the North is a clear indication of their hatred for the Vietnamese nation as a whole.

Count Ten: **Serving U.S. Plan for Provocations against Cambodia and Attacks against Laos**.

THE U.S.-puppet crimes in Central and Lower Laos in the past and the crimes committed by the U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique at present on Cambodian territory indicate that Thieu and Ky are the enemies not only of the Vietnamese people but also of the people of Cambodia and Laos.

WE ARE RESOLVED TO FIGHT TO THE END AND DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

(Continued from page 2)

strength to fight and defeat the enemy; they are resolved to give full play to their initiative and keep an offensive position on all fronts—military, political and international—and deliver harder and more accurate blows at the U.S. aggressors. On the occasion of the current National Day, all our people further arm themselves with the iron will of President Ho Chi Minh as expressed in his July 17, 1966 appeal: "Our people will resolutely fight till complete victory whatever the sacrifice and hardships may be. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. Once victory is won, our people will rebuild our country and provide it with bigger and more beautiful constructions."

This splendid day of victory is awaiting us. Compatriots and fighters! March forward with the mettle of victors, with the firm determination to defend the North, liberate the South, and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country in order to build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, strong and prosperous Viet Nam, thus contributing to the defence of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors will surely be defeated!

Our people will be victorious!

Earth, Life and Men

(Continued from page 5)

the river. Fortunately, the people knew how to take cover and casualties were not so heavy as expected.

As to shelters, the administration and the Party help build them and explain their importance to the people. The shelter is a combat post for everyone: to limit losses is also to defeat the enemy. A 24-year-old woman village head said to us: "The house protects us from sun, rain and wind, the shelter protects our flesh and our bones." We understood all this, for our own flesh and bones had often been protected by farmers' shelters. Even when you move on the road, if the alarm goes, you are welcomed by local people to their shelters. In my life—which has been long enough and spent in many a country — I had not often enjoyed such hospitality for people shared with us their tiny and low shelters. One felt that everybody is prepared for any eventuality.

THE people's war could be felt everywhere. The union was perfect among the regular army, the militia and the population. It instilled great confidence into a veteran revolutionary like me. An entire people wage war on the enemy. As a consequence, if you are unknown to the village, you cannot get the slightest bit of information, from an old man of from a 3-year-old child. "I don't know," "I haven't seen," "I haven't heard," such are the answers. It makes a really deep impression.

TRA BONG Strikes the Spark

(Continued from page 5)

Tam Rung and Da Lip, cut the road in many places and mounted guard at important intersections then went straight to the Tra Bong district town. The panic-stricken district chief and garrison took to flight.

In 8 days and nights running, the 16,000 people in Tra Bong rose up as one man to conduct a fierce and unremitting revolutionary struggle, which led to the collapse of the reactionary administration comprising more than 2,000 agents of the U.S.-Diem regime. The insurgents seized more than 1,000 firearms.

On September 4, 1959 the people of Tra Phong village held their congress, approved the list of the village guerillas and elected a self-managing committee of their village—the first managing people's power in Quang Ngai as well as in the whole of Central Trung Bo. Then one after the other, self-managing village committees were set up throughout Tra Bong district.

The successful uprising of the Tra Bong people on August 28, 1959 crowned the revolutionary struggle of the people in Central Trung Bo from 1954 to 1959.

The Tra Bong insurrection ushered in a period of continuous and valiant uprisings of the people in Central Trung Bo against the brutal neo-colonialist regime of the U.S. imperialists.

Bringing into full play the tradition of the Tra Bong uprising the Liberation Armed Forces and people in Quang Ngai dealt the U.S. aggressors a stunning blow at Van Tuong (August 1965) and recorded resounding exploits in Binh Son, Son Tinh, Duc Pho and Mo Duc in Winter-Spring 1965-1966 and again in Quang Thanh, Ong Rau Hill and in the South and North of Tra Khuc river in Winter-Spring 1966-1967.

Aug. 26 – Sept. 2, 1967

U.S.-PUPPET MILITARY BASES HARASSED BY THE L.A.F.

— DA NANG STRATEGIC AIRBASE (*Sept. 2*) — U.S. MARINE DIVISION 3 BASE AT PHU BAI, HUE (*Aug. 29 and 31 Night*) — MILITARY BASES IN PHAN THIET TOWN (*Aug. 30 Night*) — MILITARY BASES IN QUANG NGAI TOWN (*Aug. 29 Night*) — BASES AT DONG HA, DOC MIEU AND GIO LINH (*Aug. 28*) — PUPPET MILITARY TRAINING CENTRE IN KIEN PHONG (*Aug. 28 Night*) — NUOC MAN AIRBASE, DA NANG (*Aug. 27*) — MILITARY BASES IN HOI AN TOWN (*Aug. 26 Night*).

According to Western reports at the end of August 1967 the L.A.F. repeatedly attacked U.S. and puppet military bases, cut off communication lines, struck at a number of towns, causing to the enemy heavy losses in lives and war materials.

Early in the morning of Sept. 2, the U.S. strategic airbase in Da Nang was hit by series of rockets from the L.A.F. and suffered heavy losses.

In the night of Aug. 31 and early in the morning of Sept. 1, the base of U.S. Marine Division 3 at Phu Bai, Hue, was violently mortared. The Yanks admitted 50 G.I.'s killed or wounded.

Two days before, in the night of Aug. 29 this base had been heavily shelled by the L.A.F.

In the night of Aug. 30 the enemy military positions in Phan Thiet town were also shelled.

In the night of Aug. 29 the L.A.F attacked many enemy positions in Quang Ngai town including the C.P. of puppet Division 2 and the U.S. C.P. in the town. The enemy admitted that 37 Yanks were wiped out, and many henchmen killed or wounded. 1,200 civilian detainees were liberated.

In the same night, the L.A.F. assaulted a U.S. marine base camp about 10km from Hue. The enemy admitted 19 G.I.'s killed or wounded.

In the small hours of Aug. 29 the L.A.F. attacked 3 enemy posts in Thang Binh town, Quang Nam province. According to the enemy, an infantry company and an artillery platoon were knocked out of action in one of these three positions.

In the same night (Aug. 28) the military training center in Kien Phong province received hundreds of shells. Many enemy troops were wiped out, many barracks demolished. The enemy had to cordon off the roads leading to the centre to clear the dead and hide their losses.

Particularly in the night of Aug. 27 and early in the morning of Aug. 28, the L.A.F. stormed the Nuoc Man airfield 6 km southeast of Da Nang. The enemy admitted that 18 choppers had been damaged or destroyed, 84 Yanks killed or wounded.

On Aug. 28 three U.S. military bases at Dong Ha, Doc Mieu and Gio Linh were simultaneously attacked. According to *GPN*, in three assaults on Dong Ha, 360 enemy troops were put out of action (including nearly 300 GI's).

In a L.A.F. attack in the small hours of Aug. 27, the enemy military bases in Hoi An suffered heavy casualties.

In the Mekong Delta the L.A.F. pounded mortar shells on 8 enemy positions in My Tho, Ben Tre and Tra Vinh provinces, Cai Be district town, and Ben Tre and Tra Vinh towns. Many enemy troops were killed or wounded.

Even in downtown Saigon and Cholon the L.A.F. attacked the policemen and cruel agents in 4 places, punishing many of them.

In co-ordination with these attacks on enemy bases and positions the L.A.F. hammered at the enemy communication lines, cutting off many sections and blowing up many bridges.

On Highway 1 in Quang Nam province, on Aug. 28, 8 bridges were blown up, the roads from Da Nang to Phu Bai and Dong Ha, from Da Nang to Chu Lai were cut off. In Quang Tri province in one day, 1 bridge and 2 culverts were destroyed. 2 bridges had been blown up three days before (Aug. 25).

Also in the night of Aug. 28, 1 big bridge near Phu Hiep district town on Highway 4 linking Can Tho provincial capital to Phung Hiep, was destroyed.

On Sept. 2 two bridges on this highway 32 km from Saigon and another 4 km from Cai Be district were destroyed.

The inter-provincial roads linking Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, Can Tho, Sa Dec, Vinh Long and Tra Vinh provinces were also mined and barricaded.

Activities of L.A.F. gunners

THIEU — KY BEFORE VIET NAM PUBLIC OPINION

In the current election campaign in Saigon for president and vice-president, Thieu and Ky are the most loud-mouthed. They are bragging about their meritorious service in the two-odd years as heads of the puppet administration. The so-called distinguished service is nothing more than bloody crimes committed against the people of Viet Nam. Their crimes are innumerable and condensed into the to following counts:

Count One: **Inviting U.S.-Satellite Troops into South Viet Nam to Commit Aggression and Massacre the People.**

Since Thieu and Ky were installed as top-dogs of the puppet administration (June 1965) the strength of the U.S. expeditionary force in South Viet Nam has been raised from about 50,000 men to nearly 470,000, or an increase of more than 9 times. The satellite troop level, from a few thousands at first, has also been raised to more than 60,000.

For the establishment of U.S. military bases, the Thieu-Ky clique have lent their bosses a helping hand to evict house tenants and usurp land on a large scale, by razing to the ground whole city districts and whole residential quarters of the working people, and bulldozing whole villages and hamlets, even desecrating graves. In Saigon alone, in 1965, over 100,000 houses in 12 workers' quarters faced demolition.

In the past two years, as a result of the Thieu-Ky clique's cringe, more than half a million U.S. and satellite troops have been able to perpetrate most abominable crimes in South Viet Nam.

Count Two: **Presssganging South Vietnamese Youths into the Puppet Army to Serve as Cannon-Fodder for the U.S. and Advancing Personal Interests at the Cost of the Blood of Puppet Troops.**

For the realization of the plan to draft 160,000 more puppet troops as approved by leading U.S. war makers in Honolulu in April 1965, on July 14, 1967, the Thieu-Ky junta announced the drafting of all men in the 18-48 age group and all women in the 20-25 age group. Since then they have launched frequent campaigns called "police operations" in all cities and towns for pressganging purposes. Bloody clashes have taken place between them and draft-dodgers. Recently, by orders from McNamara, they threatened to draft another 50,000 persons into the army.

Not only have they provided cannon-fodder for the U.S. aggressors, but they have also been using the puppet troops in their contest for power and to bargain for U.S. dollars.

Count Three: **Aiding and Abetting the U.S. in Carrying Out Its "Rural Pacification" Programme, in Fact Bloody Terrorist Operations.**

In an effort to re-establish the disrupted "strategic hamlet" system, the Thieu-Ky junta have helped the U.S. satellite troops conduct series of military operations, called "search-and-destroy", "pacification" or "security" operations, razing houses to the ground, destroying villages and hamlets and murdering old folks, women and children. Large-scale toxic chemical sprayings have been carried out to massacre people and destroy crops and vegetation. In 1965 alone, nearly 150,000 persons were affected and 700,000 hectares of cultivated land devastated. The Chau Son, Cam Le, Vinh Quang, Binh Son, Son Tinh, Cau Nhiem, Lien Hoi and Bau Trai massacres and the regroupment of people in Ben Suc (Thu Dau Mot) and Cu Mong (Phu Yen) added more crimes to their black record.

Count Four: **Applying a Fascist Policy and Barbarously Cracking Down on the People's Movement in Urban Areas.**

Thieu and Ky, U.S. ferocious running dogs, have chosen Hitler as their hero and taken many leaves out of the Hitlerite fascists' book of atrocities. They have erected "sandy execution grounds" in Saigon, Da Nang, Hue and other places to murder patriots, among them Tran Van Dang. They have deprived urban people of all democratic rights, suppressed demonstrators and strikers, clamped harsh censorship on the press, and even attempted to close 36 Vietnamese-language papers at a time. Under cover of fighting hoarding and profiteering, they have imprisoned many businessmen and robbed them of their money. In one case, they pocketed two million *piastres* at a time. In Summer 1966, they mobilized paratroops, marines and combat police for armed repression of demonstrators, killing or wounding thousands of Buddhist followers in Da Nang and Hue. They have eliminated the opposition forces, and even plotted the physical liquidation of those they regarded as dangerous.

Count Five: **Undermining Economy, Aggravating Inflation, Devaluating the Piastre, Causing Great Hardships to All Strata of the People.**

In plundering the people's material resources to feed the U.S. war of aggression, the Thieu-Ky gang have seriously impaired the economy already dilapidated in the areas under their temporary control. Agricultural and industrial production is completely at a standstill. South Viet Nam which was formerly a rice exporter had to import 400,000 tons of rice and wheat flour in 1966 and contemplated to buy nearly one million tons in

(*Continued page 7*)

Index 12624 — PRINTED IN HANOI — Signed for printing on Sept. 2, 1967